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CURRENT LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

A textbook of botany

FRITCH and SALISBURY[1] have prepared a sequel to their *Introduction to the study of plants*. In the more elementary volume the microscopic details were omitted, and therefore the present volume supplies these details for those who wish to know more about plants. Although the anatomical structure and reproduction of plants are the main subjects, the authors have included enough physiology and ecology to relate structure to function, and to indicate the responses of structures. In connection with reproduction, also, there is a supplementary chapter on heredity and evolution. It is interesting to note that the authors have abandoned the old method of types, and have treated groups as a whole, which certainly results in a better conception of the organization of the plant kingdom. They have also developed the economic contact when appropriate, stating that the purpose is "to combat the frequent ignorance of botanical students with respect to the economic aspects of their subject." This tendency is developing strongly in all the sciences, and is to be commended as developing a more general appreciation of science, and also as helping to do away with the old artificial distinction between "pure" and "applied" science.

The first part of the volume, devoted to anatomy, is an excellent general presentation of the subject, and one that is needed. There has been a tendency in the more recent texts to deal chiefly with the anatomy of the reproductive structures, with perhaps some supplementary information in reference to vascular anatomy, omitting the numerous other structures that enter into the structure of plants. In the second part, the life histories of the great groups are considered in evolutionary sequence, relating the facts to conditions of living and to future progress.

The volume is well illustrated, and should prove to be a valuable addition to the botanical texts for English students.—J. M. C.

Principes de botanique

It is a gratification to botanists, long familiar with the work of CHODAT, to greet the third edition of his well known textbook.[2] The first edition appeared in 1907, and the third was ready in 1914, but its publication was prevented by the war and the unfavorable conditions of printing. The author has included the more important recent results of investigation, presented in his very attractive style, and with abundant illustrations.

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[1] FRITCH, F. E., and SALISBURY, E. J., An introduction to the structure and reproduction of plants. 8vo. pp. viii+458. *figs. 230.* London: G. Bell & Sons. 1920.

[2] CHODAT, R., Principes de botanique. Troisième édition, revue et augmentée. pp. x+878. *figs. 921.* Genève: Édition Atar. 1921.

The organization of the subject is peculiar to CHODAT, and therefore the volume has a flavor of its own. The four general divisions of the subject are as follows: "Physiologie générale," "La cellule, les tissus," "Physiologie spéciale," and "Génétique." The chapter topics under this general organization are often unusual. For example, practically everything usually treated under morphology, with the exception of anatomy, is presented under "special physiology," the evident suggestion being that structures are only significant in connection with their functions.

It is unusual for a book of nearly 900 pages to contain only ten chapters, and the subjects are suggestive of the organization. They are as follows: under general physiology, "Constitution de la matière vivante" and "Captation et transformation de l'énergie"; under the cell and tissues, "La cellule," "Organogénie," and "Anatomie"; under special physiology, "Fonctions de circulation et d'élaboration," "Fonctions de relation," and "Reproduction"; under genetics, "Variations, hérédité," and "Conclusion" (theories of the origin of species). The volume closes with a brief classification of plants.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

Dictionary of botanical equivalents.—ARTSCHWAGER and SMILEY[3] have prepared a very convenient dictionary which gives accurate translations of technical terms which are not usually found in ordinary dictionaries. All technical terms have been omitted when the English equivalent would be practically a repetition of French and German terms of Latin or Greek origin. As the compilers state, it is "a practical hand-book, accurate within the limits set for it." The publishers have also provided interleaved blank pages, so that users of the volume may amplify the list. It will certainly prove a very convenient volume for the reader of French and German botanical literature, both in saving time and in insuring accuracy.—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Chlorophyll inheritance.—Considerable interest has always been focussed upon reported cases of non-Mendelian inheritance. For the most part these have later been explained satisfactorily on a Mendelian basis, so that at the present time the only clearly recognized cases of non-Mendelian inheritance

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[3] ARTSCHWAGER, ERNST, and SMILEY, EDWINA W., Dictionary of botanical equivalents (French-English, German-English). 16mo. pp. ii+137. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co. 1920.